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Public Ledger

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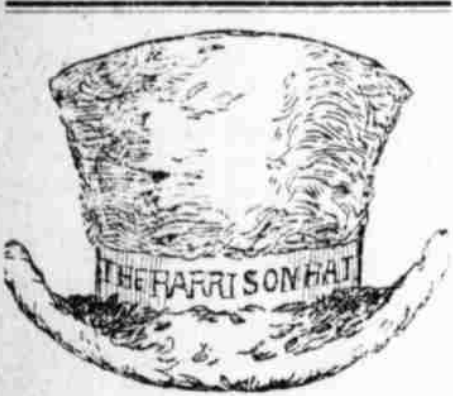
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IN HOC SIGNO VINCES.

A DECISION between the policies of Protection and Free-trade should in no wise be influenced by considerations of sentiment or theory.

The question presented must be decided on the basis of PROTECTION AND BUSINESS SENSE.

termined in the light of experience, facts, and the application of these in accordance with the dictates of plain business sense.

This fact explains in great measure the attitude of men on farms, in factories and counting rooms on the one side, and men of the cloisters, colleges and dreaming galleries on the other.

It was of the latter that an eminent French statesman said, "they have no experience, and hence they cannot fail to take the wrong roads" when arguing economic propositions with respect to Governmental policy.

Theorists insist upon taking every economic proposition into that cloudland where they delight to dwell, and there trimming it in conformity with such notions as they have imbibed; when all the while there is neither magic nor mystery in its make-up—only the plain facts of cost and conditions, such as every good business man takes into his calculations of every-day affairs.

Gauged by this standard, and applied to a Nation so marvelously endowed with natural resources as is the United States, what is the outlook to the practical man of affairs? He finds there is timber in the forests, mineral in the mountains, plenty of fuel both above and below the surface. He sees millions of strong arms crossed over breasts swelling with energy to carve out personal competency while adding to National wealth and power. Shall nature's gifts remain untouched, and stalwart men be held back from channels in which their unhampered ambition would place them, and they be compelled to remain dependents upon foreigners for the necessities of life? The question suggests the answer.

So long as workingmen in any other part of the world can be found content to take lower wages than will properly support an American citizen, the theorist says, let the product of such cheap labor come, without fetter or barrier to its ingress. His claim is that the way to make a people rich is to let them "buy

where they can buy the cheapest." This is the beginning and the end of his philosophy. But the practical man of affairs knows that foreign product will not be imported unless buyers are ready to take them off his hands and pay something more than mere cost charges. Experience has also taught him that the only way in which a large majority of people can become purchasers is to first be supplied with work, and given wages something beyond what is required for buying food. He also recalls the fact that when in times past certain men have undertaken to utilize domestic resources, combinations of interested foreigners theretofore supplying the desired products at once dropped down prices and kept them down until all efforts of domestic competition had been starved out. It is in view of these facts that he announces willingness to join with the enterpriser of home industry—the would-be miner and mill owner, and the farmer who stands ready to supply these with bread and meat—and conclude an arrangement by which every willing pair of arms can be given work, every needy buyer can secure enough money to keep himself and those dependent upon his efforts on the high level of comfort and independence.

How would S. G. HILLIS of Lewis county do for State Senator? There are more than three days in which to make the race.

S. G. HILLIS of Concord is a man of integrity, honesty and sterling Republicanism, and would make as good a Senator as any of 'em.

The nearer the farm and factory are to each other the greater the home market, and the greater the home market the greater the value of the farm.

The Republicans of Mason and Lewis counties should not let their chances, like the proverbial sunbeam, pass them by. Let us go in and elect a State Senator.

MR. HILL can get only a second grade of consolation out of the Democrats of Indiana. Between GRAY and CLEVELAND he sort of tumbles to the ground, as it were.

DURING 1886, under the splendid Americanism (?) of CLEVELAND and the exertions of VILAS, ship-building in the United States fell to 92,453 39 tons—less than for any whole year since 1832. In the last fiscal year 294,122 75 tons were built. And this calendar year, according to an article in *The New York Sun*, 53,995 18 tons have been built and launched from Maine shipyards. The list of vessels composes ships, barkentines and some of the schooners are intended for either trade to California or for over-sea trade. They will cheapen freights, and their building has employed American mechanics and laborers, who consumed American food and supplies.

WHEN your opponent, echoing ROGER Q. MILL's nonsense, asserts that our prosperity was greater in the low Tariff period before the war than it has ever been since, do not forget to quote for his benefit the testimony of MULHALL, the famous English statistician, who said: "It would be impossible to find in history a parallel to the progress of the United States in the last ten years. Every day that the sun rises upon the American people it sees an addition of two and a half million dollars to the accumulation of wealth in the Republic, which is one-third of the daily accumulation of all mankind outside of the United States." It is no new experience, this futation of Free-trade prophecies which we are now witnessing on every hand, under the practical operation of the new Tariff. The early English Free-trade prophets shot just as wide of the mark in their predictions. In answer to his opponents, who urged that Free-trade would ruin the British farmer, Mr. COBDEN confidently replied that under his system England would produce 25,000,000 quarters of wheat. At the time it was producing about 15,000,000 quarters. Free-trade came, and now England produces, instead of COBDEN's 25,000,000 quarters, only 7,500,000 quarters. Make a note of this, American farmers.

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LIFE-SAVING SOAP.

Cannibals Who Were Very Fond of Washing Themselves.

A cake of soap is said to have saved the lives of five men and a boy, off the coast of New Guinea. The story, as told in a smoking-room of a steamer going to Brisbane, by an old man, the owner of several vessels engaged in pearl-fishing, is reported in Mr. Niabeta's "Colonial Trump."

"It all happened in a moment," said the old man. "The ship struck a part of the reef and went down like a thunderbolt, and we had only time to jump overboard and swim ashore."

"We were at the mouth of Cloudy Bay, which meant slow roasting alive as soon as the natives got a peep at us. We were wet, hungry and miserable, with nothing to stay the pangs of hunger."

"As daylight dawned I saw a case slowly drifting to shore. In a moment we were all wading and swimming to secure the treasure. We had it on shore in no time, and prying it open with our fingers found it filled with soap. We bemoaned our hard luck in emphatic language."

"Close around the case, boys, they're coming!" I shouted, as I saw fifty mop-headed savages armed with spears, bows and arrows, rushing toward us. At fifteen yards' distance they paused, and their chief came out to talk with us. I grabbed an armful of soap tablets and advanced to meet him. His eyes lightened as he saw the amber-like cakes on which the sun was shining. Novelties, when they take, mean success."

"Going straight up to this man-eater I offered him a cake. He took it, smelt it and tasted it. Evidently he did not like its taste, for he scowled at me. By signs I showed him how to use it. The Papuan is fond of washing himself, and my pantomime took his fancy. Seeing a stream of fresh water, I led the chief to it. First washing my own hands, I gave him the tablet. He did as I had done, and was delighted."

"Then for the next ten minutes there was a scrubbing among those copper-skinned. Their weapons were thrown down, and they lathered one another, and then tossed the water over their bodies."

"We were saved, and made on the spot medicine men of the tribe. The pictorial advertisements of the soap-makers were used to decorate the idol-house. Two weeks afterward we were rescued by an English war-sloop."

IRISH INGENUITY.

How Pat Helped His Jaded Nag Up the Hill.

The graceful hint succeeds best. If it is also witty, it is pretty sure to prove irresistible. Up one of the long hills of County Wicklow, says the *Ulster Times*, a mare was drawing a heavy load of travelers. The driver walked by her side, trying to encourage her as she toiled slowly and wearily along.

The six passengers were too busily engaged in conversation to notice how slowly the car progressed. Presently the driver opened the door at the rear of the cab and slammed it to again. Those inside started, but thought that he was only assuring himself that the door was securely closed.

Again Pat opened and slammed to the door. The travelers inquired angrily why he disturbed them in that manner. "Whist," he whispered, "don't spake so loud—she'll overhear us."

"Who?"

"The mare. Spake low," he continued, putting his hand over his mouth and nose. "Sure, I'm desavin' the creature! Every time she hears the door slammin' that way she thinks one of yez is gettin' down' to walk up the hill and that raises her sperrets."

The passengers took the hint.

IN ARCADY.

Poets Dwell There with Shepherds Under Spreading Beech Trees.

Arcady never arose out of sheer gladness of heart and lustiness of fancy. To the poetic imagination, says a writer in *Scribner*, the difficulties, deprivations and insufficiency of actual life have always been especially manifest and oppressive. But the poetic imagination at its best never rests in discontent, in the mere apprehension and recital of woes. It is creative and seeks a remedy, or at least a refuge. From the first it has found some approach to that peace and sincerity which it cannot do without, but which actual life seems to deny, everywhere in nature. Thus the poet's favorite haunt has always been the vales and the groves, the flowery banks and the green fields. But nature wholly unpeopled still failed to satisfy, and so the poets in their inspirations after earthly perfection fell to colonizing their placid retreats with the children of their fancy. Thus came Arcady—the land of fantastic shepherds and shepherdesses, where everybody was honest and simple, where the tending of sheep was but a pastime, and the chanting of madrigals the chief pursuit.

A Japanese Poison.

One of the most famous and fatal poisons used in Japan and Java is obtained from the bamboo. The young shoots of the cane when they first push through the ground are covered with fine, brownish hairs, which, under the microscope, appear to be bayonet-like spikes of crystals of silica, infinitely sharp and hollow. Small quantities of these hairs administered daily in the food bring on ulceration of the whole alimentary canal, stimulating malignant dysentery. The action must be of a mechanical rather than chemical nature, just as the spores of the common puff ball act upon the eyes. The bamboo crystal is greatly dreaded by all European residents of Java. A Dutch official report says that scores of deaths among European planters are due to the bamboo hairs and to the jealousy of native women, who whenever they take a fancy to a white man will either have him or poison him on bamboo hairs if it takes months to accomplish the job. The infinitesimal hollow through these hairy crystals is the most remarkable thing in connection with them, they being the only known hollow vegetable or mineral thorns or crystals.

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